(b) if so,the details of the project, its cost and financial participation and collaboration therein; and

(c) the progress made in construction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The 1013.12 MW Mangalore Power Project being developed by the Mangalore Power Company (MPC) has tied up most of the required inputs/clearances including the Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of CEA. On December 22, 1999, GOI has also taken a decision to issue counter-guarantee to this project subject to certain conditions. The decision has been communicated to the Government of Karnataka (GOK).

(b) The Mangalore Power Project, which is based on imported coal, was accorded TEC by the CEA on 10.7.1996 (as amended till date) at a provisional cost of US $ 751.574 Million + Rs. 1580.89 crores (assuming a foreign exchange rate of 1 US $ =| Rs. 31.50). The TEC provides for an Additional provisional cost of US $ 57.931 Million + Rs. 91.09 crores for installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation Plant. Recently, M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc., who were one of the main promoters of the project and the MPC, have transferred their interests in the project and company to their partners, M/s China Light (Mauritius) Limited, M/s CLP Power International have proposed to implement the Mangalore Power Project along with an Indian partner (M/s Tata), who would hold 30% equity in the MPC and CLP Power International would retain atleast 50% shareholding. Other issues such as legal aspects regarding change in the partnership of Mangalore Power Company, amendments to Power Purchase Agreement, conditions laid down by the GOI for counter guarantee etc. are being examined by the Government of Karnataka and a communication in the matter is yet to be received from them.

(c) The project is yet to achieve financial closure and start construction work.

Construction of rural roads in Maharashtra

5603. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special scheme for construction of all weather rural roads have been launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof including financing pattern and State-wise allocations made, funds released and utilised by each State during 1999-2000 with physical achievements;

(c) the details of projects with location and estimated cost of works taken up for execution under the scheme in Maharashtra last year and progress of works; and

(d) the details of proposals received from Maharashtra for the current year and tentative allocation of funds for rural roads in Maharashtra in general and Vidarbha region in particular?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) Government are presently engaged in the process of drawing up a National Rural Roads Programme (NRRP) for which requisite Master Plans/Projects are also to be formulated. An allocation of Rs. 125.79 crore is tentatively being earmarked for the State of Maharashtra for the year 2000-2001 for this Programme.

Reduction in allocation of RD schemes in Tripura

5604. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the CSS allocation of the RD scheme for the State of Tripura during the year 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that after restructuring of the schemes in the current financial year, the total allocation under RD scheme has been reduced drastically;

(c) if so, what is the actual position;

(d) whether it is also a fact that owing to restructuring of yardstick for sanction of allocation, the North-East States specially Tripura have been deprived; and

(e) what steps Government have taken on the proposals submitted for the State of Tripura in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) The CSS allocation of the RD schemes for the State of Tripura during the year 1998-99 was Rs. 55.19 crores.

(b) to (e) The schemes have been restructured in the last financial year. In the current financial year ten per cent of the budget of the Ministry has